

Applicants shall respond to the rejection in the discussion that follows.

II. Terminal Disclaimer

The Examiner has rejected all pending claims under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting in view of U.S. Patent 6,712,587 (hereinafter referred to as the "587 patent").

The Examiner has noted that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR Section 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided that the application or patent is shown to be commonly owned. Applicants note that the 587 patent is identified as the parent of the present application, is co-owned as reflected by the Patent Office records and shares common inventorship.

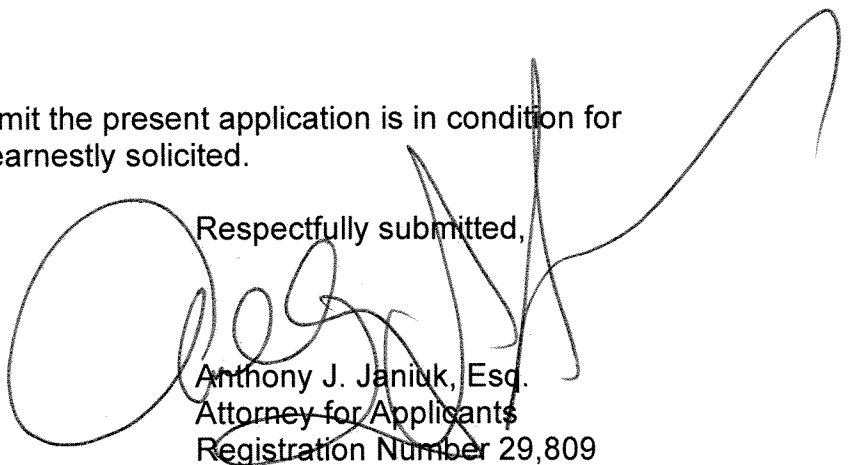
Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR Section 1.321(c). Applicants respectfully submit that the Terminal Disclaimer addresses the sole rejection of the present application and places the application in condition for allowance.


III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Date: ~~June~~ July 18, 2007